

1940/8A.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

DIGEST OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

MONTHLY REVIEW.

6th August, 1940.

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2. Notes on the World Wheat Situation.

Possible increase in surplus exportable stocks.

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NEW SOUTH WALES (AUSTRALIA).

MONTHLY DIGEST OF BUSINESS STATISTICS.

AUGUST, 1940.

GENERAL. Australian resources and activities are being applied, in ever increasing degree, to prosecution of the war. Restored financial conditions provide a favourable background but the reorganisation and expansion of war industries is the predominant influence upon current economic developments. Employment recovered rapidly after the resumption of coal production on May 20 and the existing supply of skilled labour may soon be overtaxed. Measures to meet that position have been taken already, and curtailment of civilian activities (hitherto, in the main, avoided) may soon occur. Adverse seasonal conditions prejudice the outlook in rural industries.

EMPLOYMENT. Between the middle weeks of May and June, 1940 the number of persons in employment in New South Wales increased by 19,300 to 856,400. This meant that two of every three persons displaced were re-employed within about three weeks of resumption of coal production. Recent trends were as follow:-

		1939.		1940.					
		Aug.	Nov.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.		
Persons employed	(000)	831.8	856.9	865.7	852.1	837.1	856.4		
Increase in last									
twelve months	(000)	(-) 2.8	15.5	31.6	14.4	0.9	24.9		

Comparative particulars in broad industrial groups show increased factory employment as a leading feature, and reveal a widely felt stimulus from war activities and the rising national income during the last twelve months.

EMPLOYMENT IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Excluding Relief Workers and men in the armed forces not on civil pay sheets.)

Middle week of -	In Firms with 10 or more Employees.							In	All	All
	Mines.	Re- tail Trade.	W'sale Trade.	Offices & C'mce.	Ship'g & Rd. Trnsp.	Per- sonal Service.	Other Indus- tries.	all factor- ies.	Priv- ate Emp't.	Emp- loy- ment.
	Number of Persons Employed - Thousands.									
June '37	18.6	49.9	24.8	24.9	19.7	27.5	19.7	216.9	652.9	800.4
'38	21.0	51.9	25.2	26.3	21.1	29.1	20.5	229.0	688.9	839.5
'39	20.9	51.7	25.2	27.3	20.2	29.8	19.6	229.0	678.6	831.6
July '40	20.6x	51.8	25.7	28.0	21.2	30.1	18.6	225.7	682.5x	837.1x
June '40	21.1	51.6	25.9	28.7	22.4	30.5	18.3	234.5	700.2	856.4
Inc.-June '39 to 1940	1.0%	-0.2%	2.8%	5.1%	10.9%	2.3%	-6.6%	2.4%	3.2%	3.0%

Personal service includes hospitals, religion, amusements, hotels etc.

x. Includes 14,000 coal miners idle owing to an industrial dispute.

MANU-  
FACTURING  
INDUS-  
TRIES.

After increasing by 13,700 from Aug., 1939 to March, 1940 the number of persons employed in factories decreased by 15,600 in the next two months due to the coal stoppage. In the month ended mid-June, 1940 there was a gain of 8,800 persons and factory employment was the greatest ever in that month. The index number of factory employment was 30%

/above the.....



above the level of the best pre-depression year (1928-29). Numbers are shown in the preceding table.

Plans now being developed envisage the employment of 150,000 persons in Australian armament industries by June, 1941, including an increase of some 25,000 in New South Wales. The Director General of Munitions has been empowered to recruit existing and train new skilled personnel to assure adequate and efficient labour, and as necessity arises, transfer from civil to war industries will be effected. A Controller of Welfare and medical adviser has been appointed to the Ministry of Munitions.

Employment in heavy industries showed a strong recovery from the April-May setback in June. Particulars of output of iron and steel are now not published. The upward course of factory employment of the war period, illustrated below, has been resumed:-

EMPLOYMENT IN FACTORIES WITH TEN OR MORE EMPLOYEES, N.S.W.

Middle week of -	Cement, Bricks, Glass &c.	Chemicals etc.	Industrial Metals.	Textile & Clothing.	Food and Drink.	Wood-working &c.	Paper & Printing.	Rubber.
	Number of persons employed - Thousands.							
June, 1935	8.04	5.20	44.00	30.46	22.32	8.10	11.76	2.74
" 1939	11.64	7.15	62.14	36.97	27.66	10.10	14.73	3.59
Aug., "	11.51	7.24	61.78	36.96	27.96	9.89	14.81	3.68
Mar., 1940	11.99	8.55	66.30	39.61	31.05	9.95	15.15	4.13
May, "	11.22	8.24	58.34	39.10	28.62	9.60	15.11	4.16
June, "	11.80	8.41	65.31	39.12	28.52	9.50	15.02	4.15

Sales from 42 large factories in the five months ended May, 1940 (£17.32m.) were 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ % greater than in Jan.-May, 1939. The movement of coal by rail increased rapidly after resumption of work in the mines. More gas and electricity was consumed than in June of any earlier year, although effects of the coal strike had not then fully been overcome.

	Period.	Unit.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.
42 Large Factories, N.S.W. - Sales	May	£mill.	2.94	3.24	3.24	3.50
	Jan.-May.	"	14.66	15.71	15.24	17.32
Coal Hauled by Rail, N.S.W.	June	000 tons.	677	715	737	715
	Jan.-June.	"	3573	3904	4187	2449
Gas and Electricity Consumed (Sydney)	June	Index No. 1929-31=100	124	127	131	135

TRANSPORT. Effects of the coal stoppage were apparent in operations of Government railways, trams and buses in May, 1940 but normal services were resumed in June. Despite losses in the closing quarter, preliminary figures reveal more profitable working in 1939-40 than in 1938-39.

Rationing of petrol (to curtail consumption by one-third) is to begin on Sept.1, 1940. New motor sales have decreased progressively, and the total number of registered motor vehicles is also declining gradually. The development of substitutes for imported fuel - shale oil, power alcohol, benzol and charcoal for producer gas - is receiving particular attention. At Glen Davis (N.S.W.) cracking of crude oil (from shale) will begin this month and an output of 10 million gallons of motor spirit in the first year is expected.

	Government Railways.			Government Trams & Buses.		Motor Vehicles (a)		
	Passen- gers.	Goods Ton Miles.	Working Surplus. (b)	Passen- gers.	Working Surplus. (b)	New Motor Sales.	Lorries & Vans.	Cars.
	July-May.			July-May.		June.	At 30th June.	
	Mill.	Mill.	£000	Mill.	£000	No. per week.	000	000
1937	163	1660	5599	Not Available.		715	70	190
1938	174	1781	5963	341	726	538	73	205
1939	172	1684	4832	344	634	517	77	216
1940	164	1733	5329	348	676	185	76	210

(a) Excluding cycles. (b) Excess of earnings over working expenses before meeting interest, etc., charges.

FINANCE Commonwealth accounts for 1939-40 resulted in a surplus of  
-BUDGETS. £2.9m. notwithstanding a supplementary appropriation of £9 m. in May, 1940. In New South Wales revenue and expenditure in 1939-40 were 7.5% and 6.3% greater, respectively than in 1938-39. Particulars are as follow:-

Government of New South Wales.

Year ended 30th June.

	<u>1936.</u> £000	<u>1937.</u> £000	<u>1938.</u> £000	<u>1939.</u> £000	<u>1940.</u> £000
Revenue	51,872	55,186	60,090	58,848	63,261
Expenditure:-					
Ordinary Services	52,212	53,551	58,331	59,818	63,534
Sinking Fund	1,357	1,5(X)	1,645	1,778	1,972
Balance (after providing Sinking Fund)	- 1,687	+ 135	+ 114	- 2,748	-2,245
Net result (before providing Sinking Fund.)	- 330	+1,635	+1,759	-970	- 273

WAR FINANCE. Supplementing the successful £20m. war loan of May-June, 1940 interest free loans totalling £4.75m. (£2.24m) and gifts amounting to £418,000 (£197,000) had been received by the Commonwealth Treasurer to July 31, 1940. To that date £11.19m. (£4.43m.) worth of War Savings Certificates had been purchased. (The amounts in parenthesis are for New South Wales.)

BANKS AND CREDIT. Monetary policy has been directed to assuring a cheap and plentiful supply of money, the use of which is under close control of the Commonwealth Treasurer. This policy has been facilitated by a large increase in export income in 1939-40 which reinforced effects of earlier judicious credit expansion. The Australian banking situation has improved greatly; deposits have increased, advances have been reduced, and the banks are in a comfortably liquid position. There have been exceptional movements in savings deposits the causes of which are not fully ascertainable. The position as regards New South Wales may be illustrated as under:-

/PRIVATE....



Quarter.	Private Business in Private Trading Banks in New South Wales.				Savings Bank Deposits in N.S.W. (End of Month.)
	Deposits.			Advances.	
	Fixed.	Current.	Total.		
	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.	£m.
June, 1929	63.6	47.7	111.3	100.8	85.7
June, 1938	62.9	50.5	113.4	118.9	86.0
June, 1939	64.6	51.4	116.0	122.2	87.5
March, 1940	65.9	60.4	126.3	116.9	86.8
June, "	66.3	60.4	126.7	117.9	82.1

**INTEREST RATES.** Prices of Australian Consolidated Securities of five or more years maturity moved little during July and currently give an average yield of £3. 7s. 0d. per cent. - approximately the maximum allowed under the minimum price arrangement begun on June 15, 1940. Mortgage interest rates latterly have declined, according with the trend of interest rates generally:-

Private First Mortgages, N.S.W. 1939-40.

Weighted average rate (% p.a.), Three months ended-

	<u>Oct.</u>	<u>Dec.</u>	<u>Jan.</u>	<u>Feb.</u>	<u>Mar.</u>	<u>Apr.</u>	<u>May.</u>	<u>June.</u>
Rural	5.3	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	5.2	5.0	5.0
Urban	5.6	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.6

**STOCK EXCHANGE.** Dominated by the deteriorating war situation ordinary share values eased about 8% between June 1 and 19 in a gradual decline on a thin market. Early in July a better tone appeared, and during recent weeks average values have recovered to the level ruling at the end of May.

Index numbers (par value = 100) of the average value of ordinary company shares compare as under:-

	<u>Mar.</u> <u>1937.</u>	<u>June</u> <u>1939.</u>	<u>Jan.,</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>May.</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>June.</u> <u>1940.</u>	<u>July,</u> <u>1940.</u>
Index No.	190	177	182	168	151	152 (Est.)

**LIFE ASSURANCE.** Life policies assuring the sum of £25.89m. were issued in N.S.W. during 1939-40 - almost equalling the record of £26.06m. in 1937-38. Thus the war, and the appeal of patriotic and other investment did not affect this form of thrift. For ordinary life policies the amount assured was a record. Comparisons are:-

Year ended June.	Ordinary Life Policies.			Industrial Life Policies.		
	New Policies.	Amount Assured.	Average per Policy.	New Policies.	Amount Assured.	Average per Policy.
	No.	£000	£	No.	£000	£
1937	51,073	16,802	329	158,681	6,892	43
1938	54,933	18,251	332	168,996	7,810	46
1939	50,820	17,330	341	158,675	7,522	47
1940	50,338	18,274	363	158,868	7,619	48

**REAL ESTATE.** In recent months investors have directed more attention to property and transactions on this account appear to have offset diminished business financed through co-operative building societies. Apart from flats, city property is not in demand. Recent trends were:-

/March Qr. ....

	<u>March Qr.</u>	<u>June Qr.</u>	<u>Sept. Qr.</u>	<u>Dec. Qr.</u>	<u>Half year ended June.</u>	
	Sales. £m.	Sales. £m.	Sales. £m.	Sales. £m.	Sales. £m.	Mortgages. £m.
1938	8.95	9.66	10.24	8.58	18.60	13.36
1939	8.51	7.95	8.92	6.78	16.46	11.45
1940	6.87	7.76	...	...	14.64	8.91

BUILDING. Private building has decreased, but currently a clear general trend is not apparent. Permits granted in the Metropolis in the half year ended June were £5.3(m. in 1940), £6.09m. in 1939 and £6.80m. in 1938. Dwelling units included numbered 4,429, 5,092 and 5,854, respectively. Housebuilding is fairly well sustained, the erection of flats has revived, but factory and shop proposals have decreased, and there is comparatively little private building activity in the city.

VALUE OF BUILDING PERMITS GRANTED - SYDNEY AND SUBURBS.

	Houses		Flats (a)	Hotels etc.	Shops (b)	Factor- ies. (c)	Offices, Theatres &c.	Total.
	Brick.	Wood, Fibro.						
	Value in Thousands of Pounds.							
June, 1939	469	94	439	30	39	53	146	1270
1940	388	60	235	52	44	105	76	960
June Qr., 1938	1351	232	925	289	151	292	449	3689
" 1939	1130	261	861	121	107	344	405	3230
Mar.Qr., 1940	1061	146	395	185	99	218	220	2324
June Qr. "	1171	386	668	99	97	239	319	2979

Including (a) conversions to flats (b) shops with dwellings  
(c) public garages.

In addition to the foregoing, contracts placed for Government buildings in the metropolis were valued at £73,000 in March Qr., £245,000 in June Qr., and £1,053,000 in the year ended June, 1940.

TRADE. The high level of industrial activity, and greater purchasing power due to war expenditure and increased export income, are reflected in buoyant internal trade conditions. Particulars of oversea trade of the State are not now available for publication but for Australia as a whole exports and imports of merchandise in 1939-40 exceeded those of 1938-39 and notwithstanding substantial imports of war materials the balance of trade was more favourable. Latterly, too, restrictions on imports from non-sterling countries have begun to have effect.

Bank clearings in Sydney in the half-year ended June were 16 per cent. greater in amount in 1940 than in 1939 and the index number for June Qr., 1940 was the highest ever reached (15% above the 1926-30 average). Voluntary curtailment of expenditure on imported and luxury goods has been asked by the Government. The turnover of wholesalers and retailers has been slightly greater in value and probably little changed in volume compared with a year ago. Statistical comparisons are as follow:-

/Period .....



	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Unit.</u>	<u>1937.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
<u>Bank Clearings</u>						
Sydney - Amount	June	£m.	79.2	86.8	80.3	94.5
	Jan.-June.	"	467.2	471.1	455.5	528.4
<u>Index No.</u>	June Qr.	1926-30=	103	106	101	115
		100.				
<u>Wholesale Trade,</u>						
N.S.W. - Sales-Value.	Jan.-	£m.	76.8	79.4	78.8	80.7
	May.					
<u>Retail Trade.</u>						
Sydney - Sales-Value	Mar.-	Index No.				
	May.	1931= 100.	134	142	142	148

RURAL  
INDUSTRIES. Little rain of value has fallen since April and crops and pastures are in a serious position over a large part of the State. Due to the mildness of the winter and some hand feeding stock losses have been very small. Grain crops are still capable of recovery, but even if rain falls production is likely to be much less than in 1939-40. Light rains were received at the beginning of August, but further heavy falls are needed.

Butter production in N.S.W. factories was slightly less in 1939-40 than in 1938-39 due to adverse conditions in the latter half of the year. Currently, output is abnormally low; practically all dairying districts are in urgent need of rain. Normally the spring flush does not occur until October.

Production of Butter in N.S.W. Factories.

	<u>1935-36.</u>	<u>1936-37.</u>	<u>1937-38.</u>	<u>1938-39.</u>	<u>1939-40.</u>
	Million lb.				
Half year ended Dec.	53.32	42.86	53.85	51.09	57.71
Half year ended June.	<u>65.80</u>	<u>61.11</u>	<u>62.08</u>	<u>62.75</u>	<u>54.31</u>
Year ended June	119.12	103.97	115.93	113.84	112.02
Month of June.	5.91	4.82	5.27	7.74	5.06

A large part (about 50 mill. bus.) of the 1939-40 wheat surplus remains to be sold. Arrangements with the British Government assure disposal of wool, and surplus production of butter, cheese, sugar, dried and canned fruits and eggs. Livestock producers anxiously await renewal of the meat contract to expire on Sept.30,1940. The Australian Agricultural Council is endeavouring to formulate a comprehensive war-time policy for Australian agriculture.

## THE WORLD WHEAT SITUATION.

Wheat production in 1940-41 is likely to add to world surplus exportable stocks. European crops appear to be short but cannot be made up on the Continent by imports by sea if the blockade remains effective. Australian prospects are not bright.

Prices are steady, largely due to fixed minimum prices in important markets.

Little Australian wheat or flour has been sold for export recently. Prices have been reduced slightly but are 75% higher than a year ago. A second advance of 4d. a bus. is to be paid to growers on Aug.16,1940.

THE STATISTICAL POSITION. Information regarding new season's harvests and trade in wheat is usually sufficient at this time of the year to indicate in general terms the supply situation for the ensuing wheat year (beginning Aug.1). This year wartime suppressions leave large gaps, crop news is conflicting in many cases, and there is little light on the position of stocks in Europe. Moreover, under present conditions a "world situation" hardly exists, as the Continent is cut off from world markets.

Reports from American sources, however, give the impression that while the Northern Hemisphere harvest of 1940 is not as large as that of 1939, it is large enough to preclude appreciable reduction of the existing burdensome surplus during 1940-41.

PRODUCTION Official estimates for North America, and a forecast for 1940-41. Europe by the United States Department of Agriculture compare with production in earlier years as follow:-

	<u>1936.</u>	<u>1937.</u>	<u>1938.</u>	<u>1939.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Million bushels of wheat.					
United States - Winter	520	686	688	563	525
- Spring	107	190	244	192	205
Canada - All wheat	<u>229</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>350</u>	<u>490</u>	<u>416</u>
Total. N. America	856	1056	1282	1245	1146
Europe (ex Russia).	<u>1481</u>	<u>1543</u>	<u>1833</u>	<u>1683</u>	<u>1360</u>
Total	<u>2337</u>	<u>2599</u>	<u>3115</u>	<u>2928</u>	<u>2506</u>

American winter wheat is harvested and stripping of spring wheat is in progress. The Canadian Prairie crop should be harvested in a few weeks. As subsoil moisture was deficient and at latest report the crop was losing condition, this crop may suffer if no rain falls or excessive heat is experienced. The foregoing estimates, however, are unlikely to require much amendment.

Estimates for all important European wheat producing countries are still lacking. The British crop is expected to be above average. The German News Agency admits decreased cereal production in Germany but claims the supply position is satisfactory. Last month there were beneficial rains in Western Europe, but generalised assertions that agriculture in German-occupied territory has experienced a bad year seem to accord with seasonal and known physical factors. It is now reported the Rumanian harvest will be satisfactory and the Yugoslavian crop has also improved. In Hungary cold weather retarded growth. Apparently Italy will have an average harvest. Spain is likely to again need substantial wheat imports. Good rains in the Volga region improved the outlook in Russia. The United States Department of Agriculture believes that European supplies of bread grains are from 5 to 10 per cent. below peacetime needs and cattle feed supplies show a deficiency of from 10 to 15 per cent.

/The area.....



Wheat - (Continued)

The area sown to wheat in Argentina (18.5 m.ac.) did not increase as was anticipated owing to too much rain at time of sowing, and is only slightly above the average of the preceding six years (18.1 m.ac.) The crops are said to be progressing favourably. It is believed that the area sown in Australia will show a slight reduction. Germination and early development have been affected by the very dry winter. Enough rain fell over almost the whole of the wheat belt in N.S.W. at the end of last week to carry crops forward for a short period but copious rains are needed generally. Even if they are received, present indications are that production of wheat in Australia in 1940-41 is unlikely to exceed 140 or 150 m. bus.

Exportable  
old crop  
supplies.

At the beginning of July Canada had in store .281 million bushels of wheat compared with 101 m. bus. a year earlier. The United States expected a total carry-over of some 270 m.bus. on July 31. (The new crops in these countries will provide about 300 to 350 m.b. above domestic needs.)

Argentina has virtually cleared the exportable surplus - about 20 m.bus. remained on July 15. Wheat unsold and available for export in Australia is roughly 50 m. bus.

Thus the four great wheat exporting countries together carry-over at least 500 m.bus. of old crop wheat above normal domestic requirements - compared with about 170 m. bus. two years ago. This is nearly equal to average world import requirements for a full year.

Trade.

During July 1940 movements of wheat reported included sales of Argentine wheat to Spain (5 m.bus.) and the United Kingdom (2 m.bus.) and some United States Pacific Coast wheat to Shanghai and the United Kingdom. The latter sale is associated with the shipment of softwoods to Britain from the West coast of America; the wheat is needed to utilise tonnage capacity, lower the centre of gravity of ships, and increase their manoeuvrability for convoy purposes. There is official confirmation of a trade report that the British Ministry of Food has contracted to buy 100 million bushels of Canadian wheat during 1940-41.

United States exports of wheat in the year ended June, 1940 were 23. m.bus. compared with 84 m.bus. in the preceding twelve months. The Farm Act provides funds to subsidise exports of wheat in 1940-41 of a quantity equal to the average export of the preceding ten years and official expectations are that 66 m. bus. will be exported in 1940-41.

Satisfactory particulars of world exports of wheat are not available.

Australian  
conditions.

Recent official statements indicate that 120 m. bus. of the Australian 1939-40 crop have been sold and that the carry-over on Nov. 30, 1940 may be 66 m. bus., including 50 m. bus. of unsold wheat. This compares with a normal carry-over of from 10 to 20 m. bus. Shipping difficulties have retarded the disposal and export of wheat.

On July 29 the Minister for Commerce announced that a second advance would be paid to growers participating in the No. 2 pool (f.a.q. 1939-40 wheat) on August 16, 1940. The amount of the advance is 4d. per bushel. After receipt of this, growers in New South Wales will have been paid a price equivalent for bulk wheat to about 2s.5d. a bus. (net) at country sidings.

It is believed that the 1940-41 harvest will be acquired and handled in a compulsory pool. The Government's policy for the coming harvest is expected to be announced this month. A war-time wheat policy has not yet been formulated.

/PRICES.....

# Wheat - (Continued)

prices. Chicago is now the only important exchange where there is no fixed minimum price. Both in Winnipeg and Buenos Aires fixed minimum prices below which there can be no trading in futures have been enforced since May, 1940. With the Australian Wheat Board controlling Australian wheat, and most important, with the Cereals Imports Committee operating in London, world trade in wheat is virtually controlled, since Chicago quotations tend, while America has wheat to export, to conform to those arrived at in trading in Winnipeg.

Throughout July Winnipeg quotations were unchanged at minimum prices (Oct. futures 73<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> cents a bus.) In Chicago there were slight fluctuations but practically no net change. September options at 76 cents a bushel on July 31 were 35 cents a bushel below the season's high point of Apr. 18 though only 3<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents a bushel below the average for June, 1940. At this level the quotation was about 10 cents a bushel higher than on July 31, 1939.

The trend of futures quotations (Sept. options) in Chicago was:-

	<u>Average</u>				
	<u>Jan.,</u>	<u>Apr.,</u>	<u>May,</u>	<u>June,</u>	<u>July 31,</u>
	<u>1940</u>	<u>1940</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1940.</u>	<u>1940.</u>
Cents per bus.	98	107	94	80	76

Under the A.A.A. 1940 Wheat Loan Program, the loan against wheat will average 64 cents a bushel, compared with 63 cents a bushel last year. The loan, plus a parity payment of 19 cents a bushel will give a return to farmers of not less than 83 cents a bushel (approximately equal to 5s.1d. Aust.) irrespective of market price. Thus, American growers are being subsidised to the extent of 7 cents a bushel at current futures quotations.

Excluding spectacular war developments, it seems improbable that present values will change greatly at least until after next Argentine harvest as the remaining three large exporting countries may be expected to co-operate in stabilising the market. The Pan-American proposals for purchase and orderly marketing of surplus primary products may affect the disposal of Argentine wheat (and other grain) in 1940-41.

al  
ade. No important export sales of wheat or flour have been reported recently. Local trade has proceeded quietly. On July 30 the Australian Wheat Board announced an all-round reduction of <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. a bushel which became effective for wheat for local flour on Aug. 5. Prices now current (per bushel, f.o.r., Sydney) are 4s. 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. for bagged and 3s.11<sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. for silo wheat for local consumption and small export orders. The price for silo wheat is about 75 per cent. higher than at the corresponding date of 1939. The course of wheat prices in Sydney was:-

## PRICES OF BULK WHEAT - SYDNEY.

Monthly Average - Per Bushel, ex trucks, Sydney. /  
Excluding bounty, and including storage charges when payable.

	Season ended Nov.	Dec.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June	July
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1933-34	2 9	2 7	2 6	2 6	2 7	2 9	2 11
1936-37	5 3	5 4	5 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	5 5	5 4	5 1	5 7
1937-38	4 0	4 6	4 2	4 0 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	3 11	3 7	3 8
1938-39	2 5	2 6	2 4	2 5	2 7	2 5	2 3 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
1939-40	-	3 5	3 9 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	3 11	4 0	4 0	4 0

/ Shippers' offers, ex trucks, Sydney to 1938-39; Australian Wheat Board's price for wheat for local flour and small export orders from Dec., 1939. After receipt of the second advance (4d. a bus.) on Aug 16 growers will have received for bulk wheat approximately 2s.5d. (net) a bushel. Further payment will be dependent on /realisations....



Wheat - (Continued)

realisations for all 1939-40 wheat (195.6 m.bus.) delivered to the Board, a considerable amount of which remains to be sold.

Flour. Particulars of exports of flour from New South Wales are not now available for publication.

The value of flour exported from Australia in the eleven months ended May was £4,132,319 in 1938-39 and £4,590,408 in 1939-40. The increase was due to higher prices offsetting a reduction in quantity.

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